VITALITY IN FERNS.—*Polypodium incanum* has been called the "Resurrection Fern" on account of its wonderful vitality, but our common *P. vulgare* appears to be no less tenacious of life. In November, 1876, as an experiment, I threw a plant of this latter species under a bench where it remained in a perfectly dry state, and subject to the warm atmosphere of a heated room, until late in April, 1877—a period of more than five months. It had become so dry and shriveled that it did not seem possible for any life to exist, yet under the influence of frequent rains it soon began to start and is now growing moderately.

Just how long life may be retained under such conditions as those to which this plant was subjected would seem to me to be an interesting subject for inquiry, and one that might lead to useful results in the transportation of certain plants.

It may not be out of place in this connection to state that last spring I took from some pressed herbarium specimens of *Trichomanes Petersii* sent to me a short time previously by Mr. Peters—I do not know how long they had been collected, but presume for a short time only—a plant and placed it under a bell glass. In a very few days it began to straighten up its tiny fronds and is now living and growing.—GEO. E. DAVENPORT, *Boston, Aug.* 3, 1877.

ADIANTUM CAPILLUS-VENERIS.—In a private letter Mr. Davenport makes the following statement in reference to this fern: "It might be an interesting fact to state that I have succeeded in cultivating this species from Utah in the open garden and carried my plant safely through the long severe winter of 1876–7 without any other protection than some loose brush thrown over it. The plant was set out in May, 1876, in some rock work by the side of a little brook, and had an open southern exposure. It grew finely all through the year, and proved itself hardy by surviving our last severe winter, and is now a fine, compact, healthy plant."—J. M. C.

NOTES FROM SOUTH WESTERN VIRGINIA.—Mr. Howard Shriver has just visited New River, a most interesting locality, and writes as follows: "I found *Cedronella* in a new spot at Carter's and Forney's (Allisonia C. H.). I also found at Carter's abundance of *Pyrularia oleifera*, but the blooms had nearly all fallen, leaving only one plant, with one pear in an unripe state. The plants seemed flourishing enough, so that I was at a loss to determine whether the failure to fruit resulted from the excessive drought, or from late frosts, which cut garden plants badly as well as some wild ones, or from some other cause. The flowers came several at a time and regularly dropped, until many stems were terminated by a single flower at the time of my arrival.

Halesia tetraptera had gone out of bloom, but the trees had made plenty of fruit, which was then about a quarter of its full size. *Chionanthus Virginica* was nearly out of bloom. The shrubs were found in abundance all along the river. *Ptelea trifoliata* lined the river shores for several miles and was in full bloom. So was *Celastrus scandens*. A plant much resembling *Phacelia parviflora* appeared sparingly on the shore. It does not answer satisfactorily to the above name and may be a variety. *Sedum ternatum* abounded, but I saw not a single *S. Nevii*, which abounds at Allisonia along with *S. ternatum*. I found here for the second time *Aspidium Goldianum*, Hook, and *Cystopteris fragilis*, Bernh., also *Asplenium angustifolium*, Mx. While sitting on the bank of New River with Forney, I desired him without moving to pass to me all the ferns he could reach, which were as follows: *Adiantum pedatum*, *Asplenium Trichomanes*, *Asplenium ebeneum*, *Aspidium acrostichoides*, var. *incisum*, *Cystopteris fragilis*, *Onoclea sensibilis*, *Woodsia obtusa*, *Osmunda Claytoniana*, and one or two others of which I am not certain, perhaps, *Cystopteris bulbifera*. I also found elsewhere, *Polypodium vulgare*, *Pteris aquilina*, *Pellæa atropurpurea*, *Asplenium Ruta-muraria*, *Camptosorus rhizophyllus*, *Phegopteris hexagonoptera*, *Aspidium marginale*, *Botrychium Virginicum*,